

Review Meet on Brucellosis

A two-day long Annual Review Meet of DBT sponsored 'Network Project on Brucellosis' was jointly organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru at JNU New Delhi on 21st- 22nd November 2014. Project investigators and researchers from ICAR institutes, State Agricultural University (SAU)/ State Veterinary University (SVU) and Industries from 13 states participated in the meet.

The inaugural function was attended by Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor JNU, New Delhi, Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor, DBT, New Delhi, Dr. H. Rahman, Project Coordinator and Director, NIVEDI, national experts Dr Harsh Vardhan Batra, Director and Scientist 'G', DFRL, Mysore, Dr. Satish Gupta, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and International experts Dr. Ramesh Vemulapalli, Professor, Purdue University, USA and Dr. Michael Ward, Professor, University of Sydney, Australia.

While inaugurating the meet, the chief guest, Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JNU expressed his gratitude to DBT and NIVEDI for organizing the meet at JNU, New Delhi. He emphasized that he could sense the quality of work carried out in the project to control and prevention of Brucellosis in the country.

Dr. H. Rahman, Project Coordinator and Director, while briefing the different activities being carried out under DBT Network Project on Brucellosis, highlighted the impact of Brucellosis on the economy and livelihood and food security of the country. He stated that the Brucellosis is a widespread zoonosis and causes heavy economic loss to farmers of the country. He emphasized on the need and called upon the investigators to make this landmark project a success. He took pleasure in introducing the Poster Presentation Competition to encourage the research fellows working in the project and presentations by the international experts.

Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor, DBT in his address told that the project is like his Brucella Research family and appreciated the ICAR system for being exceptional in compiling reports. He expressed his urge and immense interest to have disease dynamics and molecular epidemiology map in India through this project. He emphasized the need of documentation, digitalization of the data. He thanked all components for dispelling all barriers and coming together to work in a team. He specifically highlighted and mentioned the research work carried out in Bioinformatics and Vaccine sub-projects. He requested all to take up this challenge and set this network as an example for others to follow.

International experts Dr. Michael Ward, Professor, University of Sydney, Australia and Dr. Ramesh Vemulapalli, Professor, Purdue University, USA and Indian experts Dr H. V. Batra, Director, DFRL, Mysore, Prof. Satish Gupta, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi also shared their views.

The Technical program composed of five sessions and the progress of research was thoroughly reviewed by the international and foreign experts. There were very good recommendations and suggestions from the experts.

Poster session was evaluated by the experts Dr. H. V. Batra, Dr. Ramesh Vemulapalli and Dr. Michael Ward and the winners were Brucella Vaccine-2 (1st), Brucella Bioinformatics (2nd) and Brucella Epidemiology 5 (BE5) and Brucella Vaccine (BV1 (3rd).

In the Plenary session, Dr. S. R. Rao thanked all for their participation and data sharing. He lauded the remarkable contributions made by the PI – BE1 Dr. Rajeswari Shome especially for creating the Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) and training manuals.

Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar, Dean, School of Biotechnology, JNU proposed vote of thanks.